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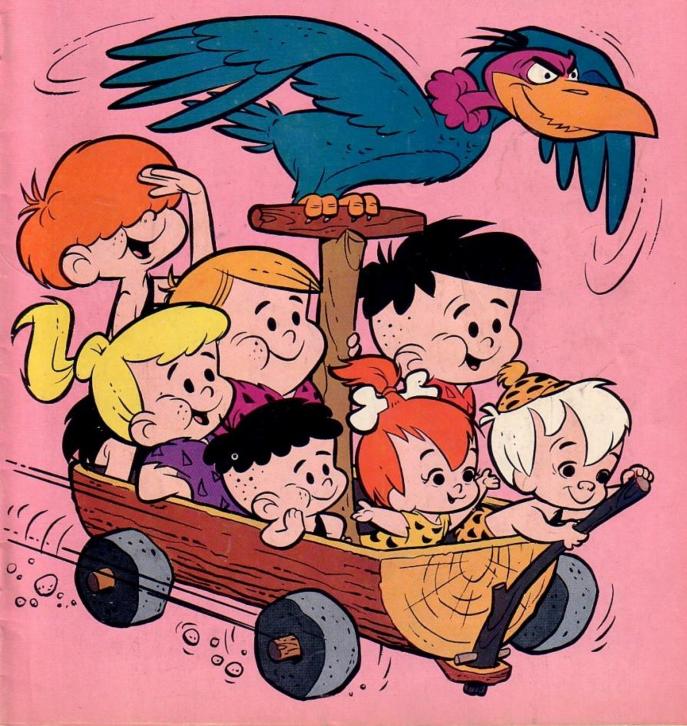
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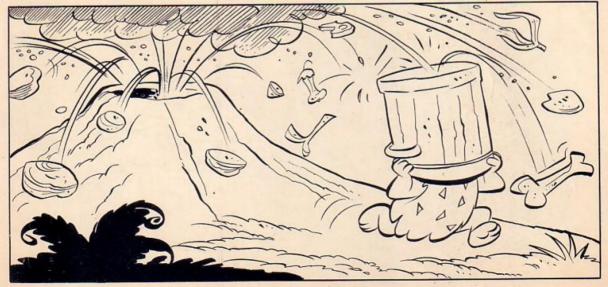
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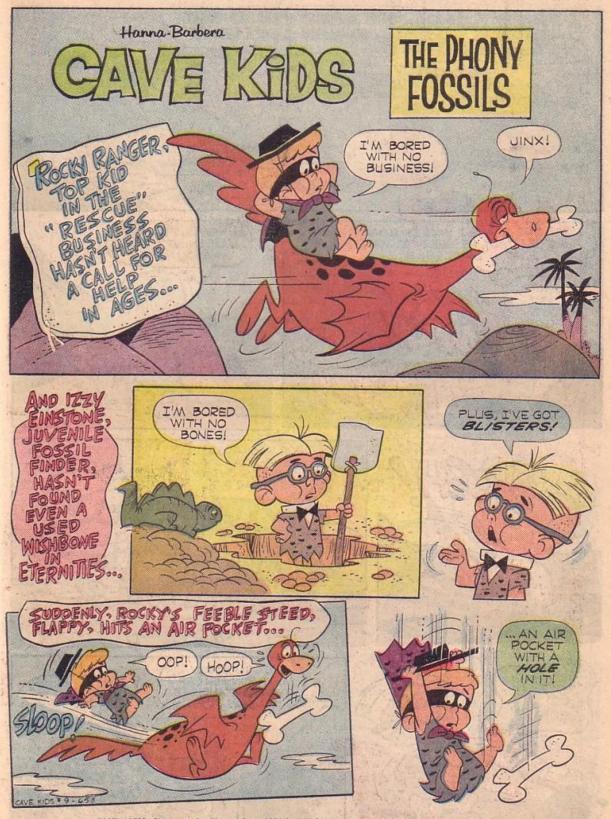












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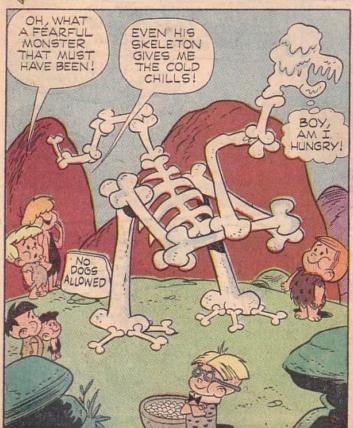




























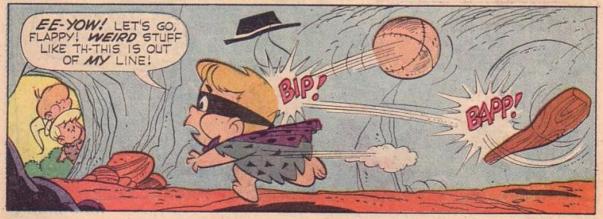


















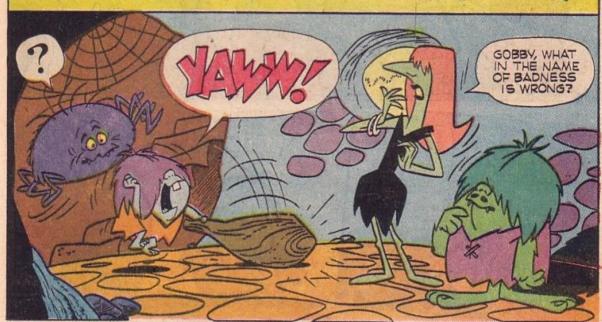






















































"Aw, please take us with you, Mr. Jinks. We are all dressed to go skating," said Dixie.

"Yeah, Jinksy," added Dixie. "Be a good skate and take us skating with you. We have our hats and coats on, all ready to go."

"No-N-O!!" shouted Mr. Jinks. "This will be the last time I get to go skating on the ice this year, and I don't want you meeces bothering me to pieces! We will never be skate mates! N-E-V-E-R!"

"Oh, all right for you," grumbled Dixie, but Pixie whispered, "Come on! We'll go anyway!" And he scooted over to where Jinksy's coat lay, calling, "Crawl into this pocket while Jinksy isn't looking."

Soon, Mr. Jinks put on his coat, cap and scarf, and picked up his shoe-skates and started off for the frozen lake. Pixie and Dixie kept as quiet as could be.

When Jinksy reached the lake, they peeked out of his pocket as they heard cheering from the other skaters on the shore. "Here comes the champ!" and "Hey, there's that fancy skater!" shouted the skaters. Mr. Jinks waved at them, sat down and put on his skates, lacing them just right.

"Now!" Pixie signaled Dixie, as Mr. Jinks stood up. The two mice skittered down onto Jinksy's skates and settled themselves on the toes of the shoes, holding onto the ends of the shoelaces for safety. Soon, Mr. Jinks was skimming over the ice.

"Whee! This is fun!" laughed Dixie. "It sure is a thrill skating with Jinksy."

"Yeah," agreed Pixie, "But hang on, Mr. Jinks will be going into his fancy stuff in just a minute."

Pixie was right. Mr. Jinks began making figure-eights. Soon he was leaping and turning and twisting in the air. Pixie and Dixie

hung on to the shoelaces for dear life, as the skaters on shore applauded. The cheering crowd spurred Mr. Jinks on, and with head high, he proudly zipped across the lake.

Then Pixie and Dixie heard a terrifying sound — the ice was breaking. Ahead of them a long crack appeared. Mr. Jinks was too busy thinking of the fine figure he was cutting to notice the danger.

"Jump!" shouted Pixie, "and hang on to the ends of the shoelaces."

They jumped. Swinging from the shoelaces, they wrapped the strings about Mr. Jinks's legs and tripped him, just in time to send him sprawling over the ice to safety.

"You!" screeched Mr. Jinks, when he saw them still clinging to the shoelaces. "I will get you for this. You tripped me, you miserable meeces!"

"Don't be hasty, Jinksy," grinned Pixie. "Look over there before you begin chasing us. What do you see?"

Mr. Jinks gulped, as he looked at the big crack in the ice which widened into a gaping hole not far away. Then he scooped up the two little mice and skated carefully away from the dangerous hole.

"Gee, thanks, fellars," he breathed, when they were safely on shore. "I didn't know the ice was that unsafe, I thought it was still solid, even though spring is almost here. How can I say it — like I love you two meeces to pieces?" As Mr. Jinks hugged his little pals, he exclaimed, "You're the best li'l skate mates anyone ever had!"

"SKATE MATES??" echoed Pixie and Dixie.
"What else?" grinned Mr. Jinks. "And next
winter we will be skate mates all season long.
We'll even be roller-skate mates this summer,
just to prove I mean what I say!".

